In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a ~~candidate~~ beta-catenin pathway ~~modulating~~ inhibitory agent, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an assay system comprising a uridine phosphorylase (UP) nucleic acid;

(b) contacting the assay system with a ~~candidate~~ test agent; and

(c) ~~determining the~~ <u>detecting reduced</u> expression of UP nucleic acid in the presence of the test agent compared to the expression in the absence of said test agent, wherein ~~a difference between the~~ <u>reduced</u> expression of said UP <u>nucleic acid</u> in the presence of the test agent compared to the expression in the absence of said test agent identifies the test agent as a ~~candidate~~ beta catenin pathway ~~modulating~~ <u>inhibitory</u> agent.

2. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ <u>1,</u> wherein the ~~nucleic acid modulator~~ <u>test agent</u> is an antisense oligomer.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ <u>9,</u> wherein the ~~nucleic acid modulator~~ <u>test agent</u> is a phosphothioate morpholino oligomer (PMO).

11. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ <u>1,</u> wherein the ~~nucleic acid modulator~~ <u>test agent</u> is an siRNA.

27. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the assay system comprises cultured cells that express UP.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the cultured cells have defective beta catenin function, wherein the defective beta-catenin function is an increase in beta-catenin function.

29. (New) The method of Claim 1, comprising the additional steps of:

(d) providing a second assay system capable of detecting an inhibition in the beta catenin pathway comprising cultured cells expressing UP,

(e) contacting the assay system of step (d) with the test agent of step (b);

(f) measuring the beta catenin pathway in the presence or absence of the test agent; and

(g) confirming that the test agent of step (b) is a beta-catenin inhibitory agent by detecting an inhibition in the beta catenin pathway in the presence or absence of the test agent.